



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRIWEEKLY BY  
EDGAR SNOWDEN.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JULY 11, 1877.

It is reported in Washington that President Hayes has determined to recognize the Diaz Government in Mexico, and that he will officially receive Senor Mata, the accredited Minister from Diaz, this week. It is also said that the Diaz Government has already made arrangements to pay all the just claims that Americans may have against Mexico. A fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind, and uncharitable people will be disposed to attribute this determination of Mr. Hayes to the flaws said by the followers of both Lerdo and Iglesias to exist in Diaz's title to the presidency of Mexico, but the true reason, we believe, is the foundation principle of the republican party—that might makes right—and that law, order, decency and justice have as little to do with the election of a President in Mexico as in this country; that everything except the actual possession of the presidency, and everything except the paper containing an election return, is a nuisance; in short that possession instead of being nine points in the law, closes the case and awards the title to the possessor, and that now as in the olden time—

"'Tis he may take who has the power,  
And he may keep who can."

It seems that President Hayes's civil service reform proclamation—for it was looked upon in that light—is not like the law of the Medes and Persians, but that like most other announcements from republican sources, the intent of its provisions varies with the attending circumstances, and applies only to special cases. This is strikingly apparent in the provision for appointing Southern men to Southern offices, and in no case more glaringly than in that of the office of the collector of the Richmond district, from which one of the only two native Virginians employed there has, it is said, already been discharged by Mr. White's successor, and that the other one is in daily expectation of receiving his dismissal also. To effect civil service reform is no small task under the most favorable circumstances, and under those surrounding Mr. Hayes, we suppose, must be impossible.

A burlesque on the so-called Southern policy of Hayes is furnished in the appointment of Russell as Collector at Richmond, vice Col. E. E. White, removed. When Col. White was appointed Collector there last September he found every subordinate position filled by carpet-baggers. He appointed two highly respectable young Virginians to places under him—one of these gentlemen is a grandson of Chief Justice Marshall. Russell has been in office four days, and has already dismissed the grandson of the great Chief Justice (although he was a very efficient officer) to make room for a carpet-bagger, and the place of the other Virginian has been promised to another carpet-bagger. This is what Mr. Hayes calls civil service reform.

We are authorized by Mr. S. P. Bayly to say there is no truth in the statements that he ever applied for the office of Collector at Richmond. Nor is it true as alleged by Russell that he ever proposed to him a compromise by which Bayly was to receive certain patronage from Russell. On the contrary Mr. Bayly says that Russell through one of his friends proposed to him that if he (Bayly) would abandon his opposition to him that Bayly could control the tobacco inspectorship under him. This offer Bayly declined on the ground that Russell had been privy to the defection of Burgess. Mr. Bayly further says that Col. Mosby never participated in the opposition to Russell and advised him to have nothing to do with it.

Botetourt county sends a solid Daniel delegation to the State conservative convention. Seven of the delegates from Norfolk county are in favor of and ten opposed to Gen. Mahone, with one precinct to hear from. Buckingham sends six Mahone and six Daniel delegates. The delegation from Essex stands Daniel three; Fitz Lee one; W. H. F. Lee one; and Mahone one; Princess Anne, Taliaferro five, Mahone two; and Fitz Lee two; Nansemond, Mahone eleven, and Fitz Lee six.

Virginia consols declined 74 per cent. in the Baltimore market yesterday—the effect, it is said, of the talk about repudiation.

#### Foreign News.

Yesterday the Pan Presbyterian Council adopted an address to the Queen, signed by 333 representatives, commissioned by 49 Presbyterian Churches in twenty five separate countries. The voting of the address to the Queen terminated the proceedings of the Pan-Presbyterian Council.

The French Radical paper Le Peuple was seized yesterday for accusing the Government of mediating a coup d'etat. The Mayors of Tours and Amboise have been dismissed. The Monitor continues to bitterly censure the audacious intrigues of the Bonapartists. The Correspondence, organ of the Conservative Union, says that should the elections result in a radical victory there would be a formidable crisis, another dissolution, and possibly even a revolution.

Ex-President Grant left Cologne yesterday, proceeding up the Rhine. He will be received in Frankfurt to night by a committee headed by the American Consul, and on Thursday a dinner will be given in his honor.

The Spanish Senate has approved the Copyright bill. Congress has unanimously voted a resolution expressing confidence in the Generals and soldiers in Cuba.

A sharp advance in values has taken place in the grain market, both in Paris and Marseilles. This, coupled with the broken weather, has had a hardening effect upon the English market, and, should continental buyers put in an appearance, we may shortly expect to see higher prices.

A potato bug has been discovered in Dublin.

#### CITY COUNCIL.

A regular meeting of the City Council was held last night.

#### BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

This Board met at 8:10 o'clock, with all of the members present.

The Chair announced the standing committees for the ensuing year.

Mr. Strauss asked how many committees a member had to serve on.

The President said there were nine committees, and only seven members to serve on them.

Mr. Strauss asked to be excused from service on the Committee on Public Property, but after some conversation professed himself satisfied.

On the bill of Muir & Bro., for mattresses for the jail.

Mr. Smoot said that some time during the past year the Council had asked the attorney to inform them what the city had to pay for the jail. No reply had yet been received. He moved to lay it on the table.

Mr. Armstrong said that it had always been the custom to pay five-sixths of these bills.

The motion to lay on the table was lost, and, on motion of Mr. Strauss, five sixths of the bill was ordered to be paid.

Mr. Strauss called up his resolution in regard to the city debt, offered some time since, providing for a meeting of bondholders, and it was read, and Mr. Strauss offered the names of the following citizens to fill the blanks: John B. Smoot, W. F. Carne, Lewis McKelzie, Joseph Broders, G. L. Simpson, M. R. Harlow, George Duffie, Joseph Hopkins, Robert Porter and Isaac Eichberg.

Mr. Strauss spoke in favor of his resolution, and urged the necessity of some such action.

Mr. Armstrong asked if the gentlemen named were bondholders.

Mr. Strauss thought not, but if they were all of them were in favor of scaling the debt, as he knew from conversation with each of them.

Mr. Armstrong favored fair play to the bondholders, but not to the exclusion of everybody else's interests. He hoped that some arrangement would be made, low enough, to permit of taxation sufficient to pay the interest promptly.

Mr. Dowham asked whether he understood Mr. Strauss to say that none of the gentlemen named were bondholders.

Mr. Strauss repeated his explanation.

Mr. Dowham thought it better to have some bondholders on the committee; it might have a beneficial effect. He moved to add the names of Drs. D. M. French and William B. Gregory.

The amendment and original resolution were then adopted, and Messrs. Strauss and Armstrong appointed on the committee from the Board of Aldermen.

The appropriation bill as reported in the last Council was then taken up.

Mr. Armstrong moved to make the appropriation for public schools \$5,000, which he thought as much as the city ought to pay.

He had been attacked in the printed report of the Superintendent of Schools for calling attention to the wasteful and wasteful extravagance of the School Board. He commented on some of the items of the Superintendent's report. He said that he favored public schools, but claimed that there was great extravagance in their management. He objected to the purchase of the Peabody school building. He thought a fair English education all that was necessary. He did not believe in learning boys music, to finger the piano, at public expense. He thought it is to tax the people to get a portion of the school tax. He continued at length in opposition to the Board and its actions.

Mr. Dowham said he could not approve of any attacks upon the public schools. He read from the Superintendent's report to show that the expense of the schools in Alexandria was much less than in any other city in the State.

Mr. Armstrong again commented on the report, and especially that part showing that salaries of teachers were less here than elsewhere. Nobody was obliged to serve, he thought.

Mr. Matbury called attention to the fact that the School Board, under the State law, call upon the Council for double the amount of the State appropriation, which would make \$5,500, whereas they only asked for \$5,000.

Mr. Armstrong said if that were the case the liberties of the people of Alexandria were not worth much.

The amendment of Mr. Armstrong failed for want of a second, and the bill as formerly amended was then passed—aye 7, no 1—Mr. Armstrong.

Several matters of minor interest were transacted, and the Board, at 9:20 o'clock, adjourned until Thursday night.

#### COMMON COUNCIL.

The Common Council of Alexandria held its regular semi-monthly meeting last night, fifteen members being present.

After some routine business.

Mr. Evans introduced a resolution relating that the Committee on Public Property had reported in favor of paying Dr. Johnson's claim \$320, and directing the Auditor to pay that amount to Dr. Johnson. Mr. Evans said:—

In offering this resolution I would simply say that this matter has been before Council for sometime in some form or other. The Committee on Public Property has recommended the payment of the amount of the bill—that proportion of the amount expended on the Friendship Engine House. I will state further that, at this time, I believe Dr. Johnson owes taxes to the amount of \$300, so that it would take but \$200 to settle the claim. It has been adjudicated upon several times, and recommended often by the Committees for payment.

The President—I rule this resolution out of order. It has never been reported on by any present committee of the present Council. I will send it to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Latham—I thought, Mr. President, that you ruled it out of order.

The President—Yes, sir, so far as the Committee is concerned, but not as to the resolution itself.

Mr. Latham—You decided it was out of order; how you can then call it into life I cannot understand.

The Chair said that while the allusion to the former Committees was out of order, the action proposed by the resolution was not.

Mr. Latham—That's a distinction without a difference.

The President—Well, sir, I so rule.

Mr. Evans desired to know if the Chair claimed the right to dispose of business without referring it to Council.

The Chair said that he had the right to refer matters to the appropriate committees when there was no objection.

The reference was made.

Nearly an hour was spent, waiting for business from the Board of Aldermen. When, finally, the Appropriation bill came from the Aldermen, there was a provision appropriating \$5,000 for streets, of which \$2,500 were to be for the repair of King street.

Mr. Latham favored a larger appropriation for the streets, and urged that it be made \$6,000.

Mr. Evans opposed appropriating \$2,500 for the repair of King street. It would not repair more than a few squares.

Mr. Rishell urged that it was economy to prevent suits for damages by repairing King street. One such suit had already gone against the city.

Mr. Beach said that he had been told by a surveyor that \$3,000 would repair King street. The sum was fixed at \$4,500 and the appropriation for King street stricken out.

When the clause appropriating \$30,000 for interest came up,

Mr. Evans thought something more should be done. Unless Council limited the amount of interest to be paid on each bond the first corner would be flat ferred and the others get nothing.

Mr. Latham said it was not contemplated to pay interest in the future until after a conference with the bondholders. It was back interest that was to be paid.

Mr. Evans said that don't mend the matter. The back interest was \$90,000, and \$30,000 could not pay that.

Mr. Latham said some of the July interest would be paid now. He proceeded to give his views on the Corporation debt, advocating a compromise, and the prompt payment of 6 per cent. interest on whatever valuation of the bonds should be agreed upon, whether 50, 55, or 60 cents. He would not mention any larger sum. He was opposed to repudiation.

The bill passed at 10:5 o'clock, and the Board adjourned at 10:15.

#### The Eastern War.

It is officially announced that the Russian left wing has been driven across the Russian frontier pursued by Ishmail Pasha. A deputation of citizens of Karshave visited Mukhtar Pasha.

Mukhtar Pasha has effected a junction with a portion of the garrison of Karshahlikoyi, three miles from the fortifications. The Russians continue to retreat on Kurkudra. Ismail Pasha is at Mossoum, three miles from the frontier. Gen. Tergukassoff occupies a position on the frontier.

Specials from Asia state that in the Ardahan district on June 28, the Russians pillaged eleven villages and killed fifty people, on the pretext that they had fought against them. On Friday last General Tergukassoff returned to Russian territory. His force marched four hundred kilometers daily, and is believed to have lost all its war materials.

Accounts from Russia acknowledge that the campaign in Asia is considered to be a complete failure and will have to be renewed. In Europe there is no doubt that the Turks have given up the defense of the whole line of the Danube.

A telegram from Belgrade declares that a convention between Rumania and Serbia has been definitively concluded. It is proposed that the military co-operation of Serbia shall take effect towards the middle of August. The Serbian Government has concluded in Paris a loan of two million ducats, partly guaranteed by Russia, and subject to the ratification of the Skupstchina.

A correspondent at Paris telegraphs that intelligence has been received there that twenty Turkish steamers have arrived at the mouth of the Danube to hamper communication with the troops in the Dobruja, and to prevent them from advancing. The Russian Governor of Tulchinsk has laid down torpedoes in the estuary.

The Taschbait publishes shocking accounts of atrocities committed by the Circassians and Bashk Dzakows after the regulars had evacuated the Dobruja. At Koreski every Christian's house was pillaged, and many persons wounded, including some clergymen. At another place the Mayor of a German colony, named Bulzer, was killed before the eyes of his wife and child. Several other German Protestants were killed, and the murderers sacked a Protestant church. Three colonies are entirely deserted.

Abdul Kerim Pasha has asked for 60,000 more men. It is probable that both he and Ahmed Eynon Pasha will be superseded by Selim and Mehmet Ali Pasha, respectively.

Mohamed Reuchi Pasha, ex-Vizier, is charged with the supreme control of military affairs. The object of the appointment of the latter is to secure acquiescence of the people if further resistance should be found useless. Confidence in Reuchi Pasha is such that all will be ready to accept his opinion on this point.

At the last interview Lord Odo Russell informed Prince Bismarck that England would under no condition whatever suffer Russian occupation of Constantinople. Prince Bismarck replied that he considered the occupation of Constantinople the best way to obtain the purposes for which the war was commenced.

A special dispatch from Constantinople says: Complete anarchy prevails beyond the lines of the contending armies. The Bulgarians and Circassian Tartars are murdering each other indiscriminately.

Col. Colad Valentine Baker will accompany Russian troops to Adrianople.

The Turkish fleet has commenced bombarding Enos.

The St. Petersburg Glos announces that frauds have been discovered in the commissary department of the Danube army to the amount of two hundred thousand roubles.

The London Daily News states that the British fleet at Besika bay with the additions ordered by the Admiralty will present an aggregate of twenty-four vessels with one hundred and fifty guns and a crew of seven or eight thousand men.

The abandonment of the line of the Yantra by the Turks is the more surprising since to judge from the stout defence of the bridge and position of Bela, where the Turks repulsed the first attack of the Russians with considerable loss, it might have been supposed that they intended to defend that line, and thus by threefold advantage to the interior. The Turks have so completely suppressed all information about the disposition and movements of their troops that not even an idea can be formed of what they mean to do, but it seems either utter helplessness or else a very deep laid plan that they should have neglected the brilliant opportunities afforded them of meeting the Russians to advantage. The London Times says the Russians cannot advance in force upon the Balkans until they have secured their communications by constructing a position on the Danube as strong as any in the possession of the Turks. This will require a month at least. The excursions of Cossoaks to Tirnova, Ploona, Solvi and Lowatz have little or no military significance.

PARIS, July 11.—A private telegram from Constantinople of yesterday's date announces the death of Redif Pasha, the Turkish Minister of War. No confirmation of the report has yet been received.

**Educational Association of Virginia.**  
FREDERICKSBURG, July 11.—8.45 a. m.—The Educational Association of Virginia assembled in the lecture room of the Presbyterian church at 9:05 last evening. Prof. Thomas R. Price, of the University of Virginia, President, in the chair.

After prayer by the Rev. Mr. Smith, the number of members present being as yet very small, on motion of Prof. Holmes, the formal opening was postponed until to-day, though the committees necessary for organization were appointed as follows.

On the Nomination of officers, W. T. Davis, Petersburg Female College; Thos. H. Newwood, University School, Richmond; Rev. J. Wm. Jones, Richmond. On the Election of Members—W. Gordon McCabe, Petersburg; R. L. DeLee, Richmond; Superintendent Crutchfield, Fredericksburg.

The Secretary being absent Mr. W. F. Fox, Richmond High School, was appointed Secretary pro tem.

On motion of Rev. J. Wm. Jones, the ministers and teachers of Fredericksburg were invited to sit as honorary members.

The subject of increasing the efficiency of the association was then informally discussed by Rev. J. Wm. Jones, Prof. Price and Prof. Holmes.

The association then adjourned until 10 a. m. to-day.

#### News of the Day.

On Monday night while Dr. E. H. Reed, R. C. Paxton and two ladies were returning to Trenton, N. J., after a drive up the Delaware, they were overtaken by a storm, and in the darkness their carriage upset and fell into the basin of the Delaware and Haritan Canal, six miles from Trenton. Paxton broke through the carriage window and pulled one of the ladies out. Reed and the other lady were drowned. The horses and driver were saved, one of the horses being badly hurt.

One day last week a son of Gen. Wm. B. Taliaferro, of Gloucester county, Va., in response to a banter, undertook to swim across the York river. Mr. Taliaferro after getting into the stream found that he could not swim, and plied his undertaking and returned toward the shore, but was unfortunately beaten against the piles of the wharf, from which accident an abscess of the lungs formed, and fatal results are anticipated.

The Orange Society at Montreal last night received a deputation of the National Societies and decided that no procession would be attempted. Members, however, will attend in private service. All fears of a disturbance tomorrow are therefore dissipated.

The Chicago Inter Ocean has information that the French Government has dispatched agents to that city to buy immense quantities of cured pork. From this it infers that France is preparing for war.

The American whaling schooner Rising Sun has been overhauled on the coast of Cuba by the Spaniards and detained until her papers could be examined.

John Greene was lynched in Randolph County, Mo., last Monday, for the murder of his wife.

Frank Wilson, colored, was hung at Harrisburg to-day for the murder of J. B. Rudy, in June, 1876.

The German Bank of St. Louis has failed.

FOR THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.—Though I entertain none but sentiments of high personal regard for the various gentlemen whose names have been thus far mentioned in connection with the next House of Delegates, and while I desire to say nothing in disparagement of any of them, like every other voter, I have my favorite. I also have my reasons for having a favorite, and among those reasons are the following:—First, The gentleman of my choice is one of the largest tax payers in this legislative district, and is in every way identified with the material interests of our people.

Second, He is a young man of intelligence and character, and to every particular, comes equally up to the requirements of the old Jeffersonian ideal. Third, He is a resident and the choice of Alexandria county proper, which, not having had a Delegate since the days of retrocession to represent it as it should be, is certainly entitled to some consideration in this election. Mr. Alexander Hunter is not essentially a countyman; he belongs as much to the city as he does to the county, and will represent and protect the interests of both with equal zeal and ability. In sending Mr. Hunter to the Legislature, although it may be his first appearance there, as a member, yet by reason of his varied and extensive experience as a newspaper correspondent, and his intimate business association with lawyers, legislators, capitalists, both at the State and national level, he is a man who is well versed in the intricacies of the halls of legislation. If we send a novice to the Legislature it will be necessary for him to remain there more than one term before he can be of any service to his constituency, whereas I consider Mr. Hunter's acquaintance with the members, and his general knowledge of the ropes, as equivalent to an actual experience of several sessions. Owing to the present status of the State finances, the next session of the Legislature, which will, in all probability, be called upon to deal decisively with that important question, will be one of the most important sessions ever held, and Mr. Hunter, being himself a large property holder, and being thereby directly concerned in the solution of that question, and being, as he is, as much to the city as the county portion of the State, and being acceptable to both, as a member, and as a representative, a most available candidate, and I don't see how the place can be well filled without him.

MERCHANT,  
July 11, 1877.

WHO SHALL IT BE?—Who shall it be? is the question that is often asked when persons are discussing as to the next representatives from this place to the General Assembly. There are four gentlemen named for the position—three from the city and one from the county. I desire to say a few words in behalf of the county candidate, Mr. Alexander Hunter. The county has never had a representative. In 1871 the conservative candidates were S. C. Neale from the city and George Ott Wunder from the county. Mr. Neale was elected and Mr. Wunder defeated. Last year Mr. Henry W. Fabry, from the county, was nominated and defeated. It seems to me that the county should be allowed a representative this year. The interests of the county are peculiar. To attend to them properly requires a man who is familiar with the county affairs. Mr. Hunter is one of the largest land owners in the county. He is thoroughly conversant with the wants and requirements of the county, and he comes before the people of Alexandria with an unanimous endorsement from the county. Will the people of Alexandria, because they have the power, refuse to grant the appeal of the county for representation. It is hardly necessary to say anything in regard to Mr. Hunter's personal worth. Evidencing in the Confederate army at the early age of 17, he fought throughout the war. No one surpassed him in all that constituted the true soldier. He is an effective speaker, and as a newspaper correspondent he has won an enviable reputation. No one has a stronger claim upon us for political preferment. Mr. Hunter's extensive acquaintance throughout the State will give him great influence as a legislator. If elected I venture the assertion that he will prove one of the most intelligent, efficient and reliable representatives that Alexandria has ever had.

VOTER.

To the editor of the Alexandria Gazette:

"First Ward" in yesterday's Gazette says that "last year Mr. Mushbach, for the good of the party, withdrew in favor of Mr. Fabry." If we will consult the files of the Gazette he will see that it was Mr. Huch Latham, who, "last year, for the good of the party, withdrew in favor of Mr. Fabry."

ANOTHER FIRST WARD.

To the editor of the Alexandria Gazette:

Hon. J. Ambler Smith has been known for a long time in Washington as a bitter opponent of Collector Russell. A few weeks ago, however, John Ambler suddenly turned up in Washington as a warm advocate of Russell.

Yesterday Dr. Smith, the father of the Hon. John, was appointed by Russell Tobacco Inspector at Richmond. This accounts for the milk in the cocoanut. This conversion is more miraculous than any ever effected by Moody and Sankey.

ONE WHO KNOWS.

The latest intelligence from the scene of the Indian war is to the effect that the U. S. soldiers, though brave and gallant, are badly offed, and that the Indians, so far, have had the advantage of them in every engagement.

Favorable reports are received of the cotton crops in Alabama and Mississippi.

#### Letter from Leesburg.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]  
LEESBURG, VA., July 10.—The people of Leesburg district assembled last Saturday and proceeded to vote by ballot, each man putting his name on his ticket. The result was 65 for Daniel, 45 for Mahone, 5 for Lee, and 1 for Daniel. There being some difficulty in allowing representation in the convention the Daniel men withdrew their vote, and it was determined that three of the delegates should be selected by the Leesburg men, two by the Mahone, and one by the Lee men. The vote of Leesburg district being 615 the proportion due to each was named above is about 330, 250 and 20 respectively. Leesville was divided, 110 for Daniel and 110 for Lee. The impression seems to be that 110 is the second choice of the Mahone and Daniel men, and the 110-day men would have no particular second choice, some preferring Daniel, some Mahone, and some Lee. Taliaferro would probably be a third choice of most of them, as everybody who knows him speaks well of him as an excellent gentleman.

Mahone's letter presents the debt question in a very serious manner, except when he talks about demanding an adjustment. How any man can demand an adjustment of a debt which bears 7 per cent. interest, passes my comprehension. But people sometimes will grant to an earnest, honest debtor favors which they will not yield to a demand, and perhaps the solution may be found somewhat in this way: Ascertain the debt, make a fair test of taxation on Leesburg, levy a stamp duty on the tax on land and property to 60 cents, less than 5,000 inhabitants, such as the assessors and collectors, and perhaps also the same class of officers in cities, diminish the number of commissioners of the revenue in all counties having more than three, reduce the percentage allowed them for assessing the property, make the treasurer collect all taxes, State, county, road and municipal, and do away with the high percentage allowed the sheriff for collecting the road tax as allowed in Loudoun, Shenandoah, Page and other counties having special road laws, abolish the legislative creation of commissioners of roads, and make the supervisor perform his duties, watch closely the overseers of the poor, force chain gangs to be established, and if they can not be employed in the county where convicted, send them to some other county where they can be collected into such units as will pay the expense of guarding them, make them do extraordinary work (by this I mean it in road making there is permanent work and not in the ordinary repairs of roads which is done by the legitimate labor of the county), house dogs to be kept, State tax \$1 and county tax 50 cents, the first to education, the second to sheep losses. Show in every way a disposition to raise revenue and save expenses, and I have no doubt much, if not all, of the State creditors would accept a 44 per cent. bond, payable in gold, and running thirty years with coupons payable in gold and receivable for taxes and dues of all sorts, except the capitation and the State debt tax, which I would make payable in coin. There is no hardship in the last proposition, for while it may seem to bear hard upon the poor man, it is the most to come out of the poor man. Then I would request the Senators and delegates to the very lowest limit authorized by the constitution. Then our legislature could say we have done our best, what will you do? Then would come the generous response, "Well done good and faithful debtor; we will meet you in the spirit in which you meet us."

But as long as the cry, even the whimper, of repudiation is heard, so long will our creditors demand the pound of flesh.

Just to illustrate: In each magisterial district in Loudoun there is a supervisor who meets his brethren perhaps eight times a year and seems like an arrow fixed in the bow and pointing homeward, and impatient to be there. He looks over the county expenses and says "All right, allow it," and his clerk makes up the levy, after a formula, 18 per cent. on State revenue, 50 cents on heads, 12 1/2 per cent. on road tax, and State law says a certain per cent. on houses; then he makes a distinction, throwing the burden on property, which belongs to houses; we will say \$65,000 of revenue, \$7,000 licenses, on which the levy is \$11,700 on property and \$875 on licenses, whereas the lawful tax on licenses is \$1,200; instead of making licenses business, which is voluntary, pay its fair share, there is nearly \$400 burden placed on property. There is also an assessor for each district, and he gets a large per cent. for assessing; there is an earthly reason why the districts should not be consolidated. All east of the Occoquin mountains, with diligence, be assessed by one man, and west of it, by two men, and a saving of 1 to 1 1/2 per cent. could be effected in assessing the revenue; in the absence of the assessor the county clerk could issue, and perhaps at all times should issue, all licenses. There is also a commissioner of roads, whose duties could be performed by the supervisor, who could report to the board of supervisors the amount necessary to be expended on his roads, and who should be compelled, by fine for failure, to let out all his roads to contract, and the present system of limiting the contract to two mile sections should be abandoned, and they should be let in such sections as the character of the country demanded, and then road making would be a business, and not as now, a perquisite of the man alongside of whose land the road passes. Again, year after year, in Leesburg, three members of the Council solemnly walk about the streets assessing the real and personal estate of the town, and crossing the path of the commissioner of the revenue, who is doing exactly the same thing, only that the town assessors assess every year the real estate, in which the commissioner of the revenue assesses only bienniums, and in some instances the assessment of the town exceeds the State assessment from ten to twenty five per cent., while upon the aggregate it is 75 per cent. less. Then why should not the treasurer, as in Ohio, collect all the municipal taxes, this would save commissioners, and the public officer who now does it could be compensated by getting pay for lighting lamps, cleaning streets, and managing the chain gangs. These are radical changes, but desperate diseases require desperate remedies; or perhaps it may be that the case is doing well, "make your incision boldly" and the result will be good. I think our people are in better condition than they were three years ago, and proper remedies will answer the cure so happily commenced by good crops and fair prices.

ALTRUIS.

[For the Gazette.]

**Meteorological.**

June, 1877.—This has been a dry month in many places and wet in others. At our place, at Accotink, Fairfax county, we have had only about 1.5 inches of rain during the month, while a little to the northwest of us there must have been three times that amount. The temperature for the month averaged 74.7, a little below the mean for the last six years, which was 75.73—the average this year being 74.77. The hottest day was 90° on the 20th; on the 10th 92°; all the rest of the month below 90°. The coldest day was the 23d, being 67° at day break. The barometer stood a little below the yearly average, which is 29.75 in; this year 29.75. The prevailing wind south. Totally cloudy days 5. Average velocity of the wind about 8 miles per hour, traveling a distance of 5,760 miles during the month.

C. GILLISHAM.

The British Admiralty have given orders to further strengthen the Mediterranean squadron.

#### OFFICIAL.

##### BOARD OF ALDERMEN